

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mounting bracket capable of retaining a fastener, the bracket comprising:

- a front face;
- a rear face positioned behind the front face;
- a first opening located on the front face and a second opening located on the rear face, the first opening and the second opening constructed such that a fastener may pass through the bracket via the first opening and the second opening; and
- a retaining member constructed such that when the fastener passes through the bracket, the fastener engages the retaining member and causes the bracket to retain the fastener, wherein the bracket encloses an airbag or a tether when positioned on a vehicle.

Claim 2 (original): The bracket as in claim 1 wherein the retaining member comprises retaining tabs, constructed such that when the fastener passes through the bracket, the fastener contacts the retaining tabs and causes the mounting bracket to retain the fastener.

Claim 3 (original): The bracket as in claim 2 wherein the retaining member further comprises centering tabs.

Claim 4 (original): The bracket as in claim 3 wherein the centering tabs are angled.

Claim 5 (original): The bracket as in claim 4 wherein the centering tabs form an angle with respect to the rear face that is from about 45° to about 70°.

Claim 6 (original): The bracket as in claim 2 wherein the retaining tabs are adjacent to the second opening.

Claim 7 (original): The bracket as in claim 2 wherein the retaining tabs are angled.

Claim 8 (original): The bracket as in claim 7 wherein the retaining tabs form an angle with respect to the rear face that is from about 3° to about 35°.

Claim 9 (original): The bracket as in claim 1 wherein the bracket is constructed to mount an airbag to a vehicle.

Claim 10 (original): The bracket as in claim 1 wherein the front face and the rear face are constructed to enclose a portion of an airbag.

Claim 11 (original): The bracket as in claim 1 wherein the bracket is constructed to mount a tether to a vehicle.

Claim 12 (original): The bracket as in claim 1 wherein the front face and the rear face are constructed to enclose a portion of a tether.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 1 further comprising an anti-rotation tab.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 13 wherein the anti-rotation tab is capable of being inserted into an aperture in a body of a vehicle.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 13 wherein the anti-rotation tab is attached to the rear face.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 13 wherein the anti-rotation tab is constructed such that if the bracket is mounted on a vehicle, the anti-rotation tab prevents the bracket from rotating.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A mounting bracket capable of retaining a fastener that may be used to mount an airbag or a tether to a vehicle, the mounting bracket comprising:

a front face;

a rear face positioned behind the front face;

a first opening located on the front face and a second opening located on the rear face, the first opening and the second opening constructed such that a fastener may pass through the bracket via the first opening and the second opening; and

a retaining member comprising retaining tabs, the retaining tabs constructed such that when the fastener passes through the bracket, the fastener pushes apart the retaining tabs and causes the bracket to retain the fastener, wherein the bracket encloses an airbag or a tether when positioned on a vehicle.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the retaining member further comprises centering tabs.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the centering tabs guide the fastener to ensure that the fastener pushes apart the retaining tabs.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the centering tabs are angled.

Claim 21 (original): The bracket as in claim 20 wherein the centering tabs form an angle with respect to the rear face that is from about 45° to about 70°.

Claim 22 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the retaining tabs are angled.

Claim 23 (original): The bracket as in claim 22 wherein the retaining tabs form an angle with respect to the rear face that is from about 3° to about 35°.

Claim 24 (original): The bracket is a claim 17 wherein the bracket is constructed to mount an airbag to a vehicle.

Claim 25 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the bracket is constructed to mount a tether to a vehicle.

Claim 26 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the bracket is made of steel.

Claim 27 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the bracket is made of pre-coated steel.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 17 further comprising an anti-rotation tab.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 28 wherein the anti-rotation tab is capable of being inserted into an aperture in a vehicle.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 28 wherein the anti-rotation tab is constructed such that if the bracket is mounted to a vehicle, the anti-rotation tab prevents the bracket from rotating.

Claim 31 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 further comprising a closing tab.

Claim 32 (original): The bracket as in claim 31 further comprising an aperture positioned adjacent to the closing tab.

Claim 33 (original): The bracket as in claim 31 further comprising a slit on the on the rear face, the slit being constructed to receive the closing tab.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The bracket as in claim 17 further comprising an extending flange attached to the front face.

Claim 35 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 further comprising a depression.

Claim 36 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the bracket is constructed such that it is capable of enclosing a portion of an airbag between the front face and the rear face.

Claim 37 (original): The bracket as in claim 17 wherein the bracket is constructed such that it is capable of enclosing a portion of a tether between the front face and the rear face.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): A method for installing an airbag to a vehicle comprising:
obtaining a mounting bracket, the mounting bracket comprising a front face, a rear face positioned behind the front face, a first opening located on the front face and a second opening located on the rear face, the first opening and the second opening constructed such that a fastener may pass through the bracket via the first opening and the second opening, and a retaining member constructed such that when the fastener passes through the bracket, the fastener engages the retaining member and causes the bracket to retain the fastener;
securing the airbag to the bracket; and
mounting the bracket to the vehicle.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 38 wherein the mounting step comprises inserting the fastener into an aperture in the vehicle.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 38 wherein the securing step comprises enclosing a portion of the airbag within the bracket.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): A method for installing a tether to a vehicle via comprising:
obtaining a mounting bracket, the mounting bracket comprising a front face, a rear face positioned behind the front face, a first opening located on the front face and a second opening located on the rear face, the first opening and the second opening constructed such that a fastener may pass through the bracket via the first opening and the second opening, and a retaining member constructed such that when the fastener passes through the bracket, the fastener engages the retaining member and causes the bracket to retain the fastener;
securing the tether to the bracket; and
mounting the bracket to the vehicle.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 41 wherein the mounting step comprises inserting the fastener into an aperture in the vehicle.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): A method as in claim 41 wherein the securing step comprises enclosing a portion of the tether within the bracket.